

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to insert patent numbers as requested by the Examiner at page 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 21 and 33 have been amended to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, by providing proper antecedent basis in the claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

The Examiner has withdrawn claims 22-32 and 34 from further consideration, contending that “[c]laims 22 and 28 are not readable on the elected species of Figures 1-2B because the elected species does not seal ‘a service apparatus onto an orifice of the fluid system by reducing pressure in the system’ as recited in claim 22 or wherein ‘the service apparatus forming a seal with the cooling system when reduce [sic] pressure is applied’, as recited in claim 28.” Page 3 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully disagree. Referring to Fig. 1, sleeve 60 has a lip adjacent to bearing 75. This lip can seal the apparatus onto an orifice of a fluid system by reducing pressure in the system or form a seal with the cooling system when reduced pressure is applied, in situations where the orifice and lip have the similar size. Accordingly, claims 22 and 28, and claims that depend therefrom, read on the device of Fig. 1 and 2B. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner examine these claims.

Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,152,193 to Klamm ("Klamm").

Applicant has discovered a method for filling a fluid system including applying a reduced pressure to a service apparatus to withdraw fluid from a fluid source, through the apparatus, and into the fluid system, the apparatus being sealably connected to the fluid system by a sleeve made of resilient material wherein the service apparatus includes a valve proximate to a channel that stops fluid flow in the channel when the fluid enters the channel. See independent claim 22.

According to the Examiner, “[v]alve 36 of Klamm ‘193 is read as a ‘valve’ as recited in claim 21.” Page 2 of the Office Action. However, Klamm does not describe an apparatus including includes a valve proximate to a channel that stops fluid flow in the channel when the fluid enters the channel. The valve in Klamm does not operate in this manner. See column 3, line 48 through column 4, line 11 of Klamm.

Applicant : Steven Knowles et al.
Serial No. : 10/643,091
Filed : August 19, 2003
Page : 7 of 7

Attorney's Docket No.: 14921.0011 C1

Accordingly, claim 21 is not anticipated by Klamm. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 21 and 33 have also been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 18, 24-27, 29, 34 and 36-40 of copending Application No. 09/697,723. See pages 2-3 of the Office Action. Applicants note that Application No. 09/697,723 is now U.S. Patent No. 6,742,535. Thus, this rejection should no longer be treated as provisional. Upon indication that the claims are allowable, Applicants will file a terminal disclaimer to U.S. Patent No. 6,742,535 to overcome this rejection.

Applicants believe all claims should be allowed. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 19-4293.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8-3-04



Harold H. Fox
Reg. No. 41,498

Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Attn.: Patent Docket Administrator
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: (202) 429-3000
Facsimile: (202) 429-3902